

# LAFAYETTE COMMISSION ON THE NEEDS OF WOMEN

## Minutes

February 4, 2016

**Members Present:** Brenda Andrus, Sally Donlon, Elsie Jones-Azare, JoAnn LeJune, Megan Morris, Tracy Mouton, Trasima Richard, Jennifer Webre, Deborah Elaine White, Marlice Young-Dugas

**Members Excused:** Martha Bryant, Kris Manuel-Sparks, Patsy Randall

**Members Absent:** Ann E. Burruss, Claudia Hall

The meeting was called to order by Megan Morris at 5:31 pm.  
Brenda Andrus read the Purpose.

## REFLECTION

JoAnn LeJune read the reflection.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the January 7, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Sally Donlon to accept the minutes, seconded by Brenda Andrus. Motion passed.

## CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Please see attached. Everyone has signed for bank changes. Motion made by Jennifer Webre to accept the report, seconded by Brenda Andrus. Motion passed.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Education:** No report.

**Health:** Deborah Elaine White is working on the UL Women's Conference that will be held on March 9th. She would like to have LCNW's presence there.

**Legislative/Legal:** The Family Justice Center of Acadiana had a grand opening on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 210 W. Main Street. The center offers assistance for any victim of domestic violence. Jennifer Webre will check with them to see if there is anything that LCNW can help them with and will report back at the next meeting.

**Membership/Hospitality:** Germaine Breaux was introduced as a past member and past president. Potential applicants will be interviewed on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. The Meet & Greet will be after the council meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The membership application needs to be revised.

Suggested questions for the application:

- If selected, what specific areas are you wanting to get involved in?
- Describe what you hope to gain as a new member of LCNW.

- What do you consider the biggest opportunities and challenges facing women in Acadiana currently?

The applicant's resume is to be submitted with the application. Germaine said the application was simplified for speed – the interview is the time to ask those questions instead of on an application. Tracy Mouton mentioned that there was a standardized set of interview questions that everyone was asked. Tracy thinks that Claudia Hall may have this set of questions. Germaine said that LCNW should have a bigger presence at events and should speak and present at events instead of just having a table. Jennifer Webre suggested a central location like Google Docs or Dropbox for all historical information, important documents, etc. so all members can access and be able to speak at events. Ad hoc committee will upload documents, perhaps headed by the Historian or at least work with committee.

**Publicity/Public Relations:** No report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Megan Morris read the proposed amendment.
  - Elsie Jones-Azare questioned wording of current by-laws policy, Megan said this was an amendment voted in during January's meeting.
  - Jennifer Webre will make necessary changes and will distribute the revised by-laws prior to the next meeting.
  - Trasima suggested eliminating point 1. And only keeping point 2. In the by-laws
  - Trasima moved to accept the proposed amendment as is, Sally Donlon seconded. Motion failed.
  - Megan called for suggested revisions to policy using the amendment form. She strongly recommends that suggestions be made and that a suggestion everyone can agree on be voted in.
- b. National Convention 2016 – being held July 16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> in Hawaii. It will be \$150 - \$200 per night for the hotel and \$1,200 - \$1,500 for the flight. A suggestion was made that LCNW should look into different training options.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Sally Donlon introduced Dr. Sarah Brabant and Melinda Taylor from Habitat for Humanity who spoke on their project regarding a campaign to garner benefits for female custodial workers.
  - Dr. Brabant called for a task force from LCNW to be tasked with researching and addressing the conditions of labor and advocating for these women.
  - Megan Morris asked how LCNW could best be of use. The response was advocacy, raising awareness in the community with people who could be of help for these women.
  - Dr. Brabant was contacted in 2014 by a woman whom Lafayette General was trying to get to quit her job.
  - Dr. Brabant calls for a task force to look into housekeeping employees, especially those tied to corporations such as Aramark, housekeeping staff at UL, and Lafayette General.
  - Megan's recommendation is that the health and legal committees get together possibly with Dr. Brabant to help address the issue.
  - Dr. Brabant wants LCNW to be in control of this research and in addressing this issue.
  - The health and legal committees will come back at the March meeting and discuss what they came up with.
  - Sally moved that legal and health committees and other interested members convene themselves to suggest appropriate actions. JoAnn LeJune seconded, unanimous approval.
  - Sally volunteered to serve on the task force. One of the committee chairs will set the meeting.
  - Recommendations for rights of employees is attached.

- b. Ann Burruss is not in attendance to give the results from the survey given at the Northgate Mall. The questionnaire card was discussed at the Executive meeting. It is a short 3-question card for needs survey.
- c. Tracy Mouton mentioned that the Ethics Training certificates should be emailed to Amy Deaville, Liaison
- d. The Proclamation is to be read at the City Council Meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Megan will look into revising it with Dr. Brabant's information from today. Dr. Sarah Richie said she could ask a professor to write this and will send it to Tracy. Tracy will then send this to Megan.
- e. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, LCNW will host a networking social directly after the Proclamation is read. Brenda Andrus will develop a flier, Megan will send it out to all the members and she asks that everyone distribute it through Facebook and other contacts.
- f. Megan wants to address the issues suggested for improvement brought up at the last annual retreat.
  - Brenda suggested a Dress for Success fashion show
  - UL Women's Conference will be March 9<sup>th</sup>. Sally moved to participate at the Conference, Jennifer seconded, unanimous approval.
  - Megan suggested a quarterly networking social. Brenda is tasked with coming up with suggestions for the date and venue and also a topic of discussion.
  - If there are any other suggestions, please let Megan know.
- g. Deadline for Agenda items is on the Monday before the 5:00 PM meeting. Agenda Item Submittal Deadlines for the 2016 meetings is attached.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Brenda Andrus – She is receiving an award from the Knights of Peter Claver. She asked if anyone wants to place an ad with her for fundraising to let her know before February 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Marlice Young-Dugas – Mentors are needed at Lafayette Middle School on Fridays 2:45 – 3:35 PM to speak to students about good choices, career options, self-esteem, etc. Sally Donlon and Megan Morris volunteered.
- JoAnn LeJune – Theresian Women's Retreat at St. Pius on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$30 and includes lunch.
- Megan Morris – Propel Women's Event. The next event will be February 19<sup>th</sup>. Events are monthly. An email was sent to LCNW members.
- Tracy Mouton was recognized for her 9 years of service to LCNW
- Brenda Andrus was recognized for her year as President of LCNW

Sally Donlon made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brenda Andrus. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

  
**Megan Morris**  
President

  
**Amy Deaville**  
Secretary/Liaison